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Metro and Foursquare join forces

NETWORK Metro has formed a partnership with Foursquare, one of the world's fastest-growing social networks.

Foursquare is a location-based social network that lets players use their mobile phone to "check in" to places in their city and announce their whereabouts to friends. Metro will add its location-specific editorial content to the Foursquare service.

People who choose to follow Metro on Foursquare will receive alerts when they're close to one of those locations. They can also check in near where they pick up Metro to unlock a special Foursquare badge and be automatically entered to win one of five iPhone 3GS units.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?

Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3



Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

• Today — Hockey injuries give Yzerman anxious moments, page 15

On the web

Visit metronews.ca for news updates



Firefighters were forced to call in demolition crews after a blaze at 221 Centre St. SW gutted a Chinatown building early yesterday morning. Road closures caused chaos for both morning and afternoon traffic.

Fire spurs evacuation

Chinatown blaze spells end of building, snarls traffic

Two apartment towers in Calgary's downtown Chinatown district were evacuated yesterday after thick smoke from a burning building next door caused elevated levels of carbon monoxide and closed off a major commuting route.

Many found refuge with family and friends, but the city was sheltering about 54 people while firefighters battled the blaze and planned to find overnight accommodations for those who needed it, said Bruce Burrell, Calgary's emergency-management agency director.

Wai Chin was one of the residents evacuated and said he was surprised to see a fire.

"I did not know what was happening, they just said to go," he said outside his



Firefighters were at the scene of yesterday's fire for the entire day.

building. "I will go stay with my family at their home until this is done."

Late in the afternoon, a backhoe ripped away the bricks of the burning Centre Street building, which is about a century old, after an engineer ruled it was structurally unsound.

"This is a critical, major roadway in the city of Calgary, so we have a building that was declared struc-

turally unstable partway through the fire today as an imminent hazard, and we were told it had to be demolished," said Burrell.

Emergency crews were first called to the fire at about 5 a.m. and started monitoring carbon-monoxide levels soon after, said Burrell. As smoke continued to billow against the apartment towers, those levels eventually started to rise.

"When they reached about half of what is the permissible limit, we made the conscious decision that we'd rather evacuate people while it was still safe than wait until it got any worse and then have to, potentially, treat people because they'd been exposed to carbon monoxide."

Burrell said about five interpreters advised residents in both Mandarin and Cantonese that they had to leave.

Fire spokesman Jeff Budai said firefighters had been called to the address in the past, but couldn't give details.

Traffic was snarled in the city's core, with detours set up around the area, backing up commuters wishing to leave during the afternoon rush hour. **THE CANADIAN PRESS** WITH FILES FROM KRISTA SYLVESTER

Council OK's audit of snow removal

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

MOTION City council was unanimous in its agreement that something needed to be done about snow and ice removal in the city — but not quite unanimous on the process.

Aldermen agreed to plow ahead with a proposed value-for-money audit of the city's snow-removal program, but one dissenting voice said an audit could delay improvement.

Ward 12 Ald. Ric McIver told his council colleagues he believed action could have been taken on the file earlier through a notice of motion he made last week, with a policy in place by May.

"I think this (audit) actually slows down the process instead of speeding it up," said McIver.

Yesterday's audit motion, brought forth by Ald. Brian Pincott, would have an interim report to council later this year, with full results by budget proceedings near the end of the year.

Still, council supported the notion of creating an audit sub-committee comprised of members of the public, aldermen, members of the audit office and industry professionals.

"I think maybe we'll finally see some meaningful results. This is the sixth notice of motion regarding snow clearing and each one seems to chew at the edges," said Ald. Druh Farrell.

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Local



BNL, Plaskett coming to town

Mixing favourites from the past 20 years with a current songbook, the Barenaked Ladies (fronted by Ed Robertson, left) along with special guest Joel Plaskett will sweep into Calgary April 8 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets for the concert go on sale Friday at \$48.50 and \$62.50 and are available at ticketmaster.ca or charge by phone at 403-777-0000.

METRO CALGARY

Man accused of stepdaughter's death still seeks legal counsel

COURT A Calgary man accused of killing his 17-year-old stepdaughter needs more time to find a lawyer.

Bradley Wade Rietze made a brief court appearance on a first-degree murder charge and his case was adjourned to Friday.

Rietze, dressed in blue prison overalls, appeared via closed-circuit camera from the Calgary Remand Centre where he's being held in custody.

Investigators said the body of Brittney McInnes was found hidden in a bed box spring in her southwest home last week a day after the Grade 12 student was reported missing. Rietze, who had been the girl's stepfather for 13 years, was arrested last week after being released from hospital.

In light of McInnes' death, the Calgary Domestic Violence Committee stepped out to say they believe the teen's death highlights the severity of domestic violence in Calgary. "Over the past few months our city has experienced a number of domestic violence incidents that resulted in tragic deaths," said Linda White, executive director of the Alliance to End Violence.

McInnes' funeral is set for today. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

WITH FILES FROM

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Woman fears family at risk in Calgary Housing home

Mom alleges multiple calls on electrical dangers were ignored

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

A Calgary mother of three was forced to prepare meals for her children with hot plates for several days because emergency electrical repair calls to Calgary Housing weren't promptly dealt with, she alleges.

Tanya White and her three children aged three, six and nine have lived in a Beddington Calgary Housing townhouse complex for six years and claim problems have been piling up since then, but worsened last Wednesday when her oven burst into flames.

"The flames shot out of the oven and all the way across to the fridge when I turned it on. I called the housing emergency line and she told me it wasn't an emergency and to call the next day," she says.

White said she called Thursday and Friday and was told someone would come but no one showed. White believes the problem is electrical; the lights don't turn on in some rooms, and in others the sockets spark when something is plugged in.

She says she sent a letter to Calgary Housing last year and made several calls



Tanya White and daughter Jordan — one of three children at home with the single mom — had to cook on a hot plate because of stove damage after she alleges numerous requests to Calgary Housing for electrical repairs in her subsidized northwest home went unanswered.

about the condition of her home, which also includes water leaking in the ceiling and broken cupboards.

"I have to unplug everything at night just to be able to sleep and feel safe."

Tanya White

"I'm scared that one day there will be a fire. I cry every time something happens because I have nowhere else to go, but we don't feel safe here. I have to unplug everything at night just to be able to sleep and feel safe," she said.

When Metro contacted Calgary Housing, general manager Dale Stamm said they only had two calls on file and weren't aware it was an emergency.

"We're committed to the safety of our units and we're prepared to send someone out right away and do what we can to take care of any issues," he said.

White confirmed a Calgary Housing maintenance worker was sent out after Metro contacted them yesterday.

A burner was fixed on the stove, a light was repaired and White was assured the stove would be replaced.

"He also said he would put in a work order to look at my place top to bottom," she added.

Alberta's Liberals change their tune on energy strategy

POWER Alberta's Liberal opposition is changing its energy policy and offering some frank talk about past mistakes.

The Liberals now say the oil and gas industry should be viewed as a positive force in the province and royalties need to be competitive.

Energy critic Dave Taylor says the Liberals needed to take a hard look at their existing energy policy.

"The old way wasn't working," he said yesterday in an interview. "It wasn't winning us any friends in the oil and gas industry. You can't get away from the fact that they're responsible for just about half of the economic

activity, and directly or indirectly just about half the jobs in the province."

Taylor said a key mistake the Liberals made was failing to criticize changes to energy royalties that were introduced by the governing Tories in 2007.

"I think if we had it to do all over again, we should have come out much stronger (and go) after the whole royalty review process, because it was a flawed process right from the get-go," said Taylor.

Premier Ed Stelmach's government is expected to backtrack on some of its changes to royalties once it releases a "competitiveness review" in a few weeks. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Alberta Liberal energy critic Dave Taylor yesterday unveiled the party's new energy strategy.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video PETA claims credit for delivering a pie to the face of Canada's fisheries minister during Ontario speech at metronews.ca/canada
Video Stephen Harper and Hillary Clinton lead a push for accountability on Haiti relief funds at metronews.ca/canada



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CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com

notes the following deaths in our community:

ARNAULT, Marc Gerard Michael
AYER, Mary Louise
BEAMISH, Elvamae (Mae)
BENDICSON, Charles (Chuck)
BLAVNEY, Alan John
BOISVERT, Donald Neil (Don)
BURGESS, Roy Mason
CHIRASTY, John Anthony
CLARK, Jeanette (nee Thomas)
DALE, A. (Gordon)
DONALDSON, Evelyn Ann
FONG, Garry You Ming
FRASER, Bernice (Bea) Florence
FRANCES
HEPBURN, Josephine (Jo) (nee Gaunt)
HOOD, Margaret Edith (nee Dunsmore)
ISMOND, Hazel Taylor
JONES, Beryl
KING, David Ross
LAIRD, Robert William (Rob)
MAHLBERG, Ronald Wayne
MAJNARIC, Ivan John (Cico)
MCCOY, Gerald Edmond
MURRAY, Trudy May
NOLIN, Caroline
PARDER, Carole Irene (nee Moszynski)
PARKINSON, George Thomas
PEARL, Irene Thomas
PETRILLO, Mario
ROPPEL, Debora
SOMMERFELD, Stephen
SVENDSEN, John Agner Erik
WALLACE, John (Jack) Charles Smith
WANLESS, William Alexander Wilkie
ZAZULA, Karen Lyrae (nee Franks)
ZIVKUSIC, Jure

For full obituaries go to
CalgaryObits.com

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CalgaryTweets

@enms Are there any other #yyc peeps trapped working in Foothills Industrial?!! I can't be the only one, can I?
@CalgaryWards Now that we have a value for money assessment how about an all out review of the snow removal policy too #yyc #yccc
@opiatedsherpa Time to venture out into the chilly #YYC day... gotta try & sort out my dead Crackberry situation... I think I'm having withdrawals...
@piccolacucina Piccola Cucina will be donating 50% of all sales to Haiti relief for the remainder of Jan and all of Feb, get your orders in #YYC Haiti

In the Sirens for Life blood battle of Alberta, Edmonton opened up its lead over Calgary by 127 blood donations, according to Canadian Blood Services. The organization is encouraging Calgarians to book a donation appointment to help the city match the Edmonton surge. **METRO CALGARY**

Urban musicians step up for Haiti

Haiti Crisis

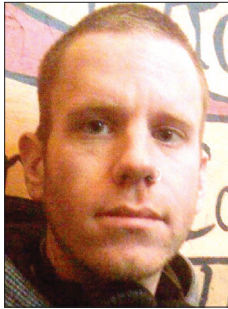
IMAN BUKHARI
for Metro Calgary

FUNDRAISER Calgary's urban music scene is now stepping up, ready to hip hop to help Haiti earthquake victims.

Jason Wakeford, co-ordinator for a tonight's event at the Distillery, said the fundraiser could be an eye opener for Calgarians.

"When a natural disaster happens, the colour barrier is lifted and we look at each other like human beings," says Wakeford.

"It's sad that a natural disaster is what it takes for people to come together



Jason Wakeford, Haiti event co-ordinator

and help humanity but if that's what it takes, then unfortunately that's what it'll be."

A silent auction will also be held. Local artists have donated graffiti, contemporary and abstract art

Donations

- Admission is by donation, \$5 minimum. All the proceeds will go directly to the Canadian Red Cross.

pieces for auction.

Wakeford also said TCM-Canada will donate partial proceeds from other events throughout the year to Haiti relief funds.

Live performances from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. include Sarah Tesfai, InfiniteP, Rasul Syed, and others. The music will range from acoustic soul, street R&B, and conscious hip hop. The event is promoted and organized by TCMCanada, TUNDACAP, and EndubEvents.

Video aiding police in shopping centre fire

ARSON Video footage has been captured and police believe it provides information on a suspected arson at a northeast shopping centre last Thursday.

According to police, a man broke into the Village Square Shopping Centre at

2640 - 52 St. NE around 3:30 a.m. Jan. 21 and proceeded to the food court area where the suspect is alleged to have broken into two separate restaurants and taken cash before pouring gasoline inside the businesses and setting

each on fire.

In both cases, the sprinkler system doused the fire, limiting damage to \$40,000.

Anyone with information is asked to call Const. Tim Dumur at 403-206-8634. **METRO CALGARY**



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Edmonton Humane Society spokeswoman Shawna Randolph holds one of 45 rabbits found on a derelict city bus on Nov. 10. Of those rescued, eight survived and four are left for adoption.

Edmonton society lays charges in rabbits case

Only 8 of 45 animals found in derelict bus lived

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
Metro Canada

Two men are facing charges, after animal control officers seized 45 ill and dying rabbits from a derelict city bus in a south central Edmonton industrial zone.

"This has been just devastating on our staff, very hard to deal with," Edmonton Humane Society spokeswoman Shawna Randolph said yesterday.

EHS animal protection peace officers discovered the animals on the old transit bus at 9620 - 27 Avenue on Nov. 10.

It's alleged the rabbits were living in "deplorable conditions" in their own

Adoption

- Three rabbits have been adopted and one is in foster care. The four others can be adopted by the end of the week.

waste, some without food or water and most in very poor health.

"It was serious enough for us to lay charges under the Animal Protection Act," Randolph said. "In this case, the individual was not surrendering the animals to us and we had to seize them."

Most of the animals were infected with snuffles, a highly infectious untreatable disease found in rab-

bits.

The majority were humanely euthanized at the shelter, or died in care. Of the 45 rescued, eight survived.

Randolph says authorities may never have discovered the bus, had it not been for a call from a tipster.

Officials don't believe the rabbits were kept for breeding, but that pet rabbits multiplied until the population was out-of-control.

"This is the largest seizure of rabbits in the shelter's history, going back over records from past years," Randolph said.

William Lavery and Nathan Smith, both of Edmonton, each face four counts of animal distress and animal care duties.

City's Crime Stoppers wins international nods

AWARDS Calgary Crime Stoppers has garnered recognition at the organization's international conference in Australia.

Three awards were given to the local association in the 750,000 to two million population category — two in productivity and one in television production. The program was awarded the prize for Greatest Increase in Total Property Recovered and another for the Greatest Increase in Arrests.

For production, they took home the Best Television Public Service Announcement for their spots on ShawTV.

Roger Monette, president of Calgary Crime Stoppers, said partnerships with the

2009 stats

- 3,625 anonymous tips
- 348 charges
- 104 arrests
- \$472,772 in stolen property recovered
- \$63,244 paid out in rewards

community, the police and local media have helped them earn the honours.

"Anonymous tips from the community are one of the most vital sources of information to assist police in solving crimes," said Monette.

"It's gratifying to see the rise in the number of tips to Crime Stoppers this past year."

METRO CALGARY

Calgary in brief

CHARGED Airdrie RCMP are releasing the names of two men charged in connection with a million-dollar pot bust in Airdrie last Friday. James Harrison, 61, and Chi Son Tran, 53, both of Airdrie, faces numerous charges in relation. They will appear in Calgary Provincial Court to answer to the charges, according to RCMP.

FUNDING Ambrose University College was the benefactor of \$405,000 from the federal government to help develop a science laboratory, video conferencing and infrastructure to enhance the school's online education. MP Rob Anders made the Knowledge Infrastructure Program announcement yesterday at the institute.

METRO CALGARY



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An Inuit hunter who spent three nights stranded on an ice floe drifting in the Northwest Passage was rescued yesterday afternoon. "He was cold and tired but otherwise in good health," said Pierre Bolduc of the Canadian Search and Rescue Centre. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Bake sale raises nearly \$20K

Never underestimate the power of a group of moms with cupcakes. Susana Molinolo, left, organized a school fundraiser with fellow parent council mom Nancy Botelho and a colourful array of cupcakes soon began piling up at Molinolo's home. The event, held this past weekend in Toronto, raised \$9,800 for Medecins sans Frontieres, which will be matched by the Canadian International Development Agency. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Shell to slow down oilsands growth

ENERGY Royal Dutch Shell PLC will develop its oilsands holdings at a slower pace in the future, the energy giant's chief executive told a U.K. newspaper.

Peter Vosser is quoted in the Financial Times as saying growth in the oilsands will be done at a "very much slower" pace than in the past.

Shell is a 60 per cent owner of the Athabasca Oil Sands Project, which includes a massive mining operation north of Fort McMurray, Alta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca



As a sense of normalcy sets on Kandahar, some are fearful more Canadian troops will mean more violence. Scan this code for the story.

Inuit kids have more health issues: Study

ARCTIC Inuit infants die at well over three times the rate of other Canadian babies, according to a massive new study published yesterday in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

And as if to underscore the tough situation facing aboriginal children in Canada's North, a second study in the same journal found that 70 per cent of Inuit preschoolers live in homes where there isn't always enough food.

"Inuit children in Nunavut are faced with health challenges that are more severe than those in Southern Canada due to the socio-economic conditions facing the entire territory," said Dr. Isaac Sobol, the territory's chief public officer of health.

"If you look at the trends over time, you do not see any improvement."

Dr. Zhong-Cheng Luo

To study the Inuit infant mortality rate, University of Montreal researcher Dr. Zhong-Cheng Luo looked at all four million births in Canada between 1990 and 2000. He then broke out those that occurred in 53 predominantly Inuit communities in the Arctic, from Labrador in the east the Mackenzie Delta in the west.

"If you look at the trends over time, you do not see any improvement," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton chat prior to a conference looking at the future of Haiti yesterday in Montreal.

Haiti cash must be well spent: PM

Montreal hosts rebuilding conference

Haiti Crisis

Canada and the United States affirmed yesterday that aid money flowing to Haiti should be carefully tracked so it's not squandered or stolen.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton emphasized the importance of accountability in the roadmap that will come from Montreal's international talks on Haiti's reconstruction.

"We bear a responsibility to our taxpayers to ensure that the money that our governments commit will be well spent, transparently, and with results on the ground for the Haitian people," Clinton told Harper after their meeting.

"That is also true for all of

the private donations that will be joined with government funds."

Added Harper: "A big part of this is working through credible international organizations that are capable of co-ordinating donors, and also capable of tracking money."

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon hosted the one-day conference on rebuilding Haiti after a Jan. 12 earthquake flattened much of the country. He also attended the Clinton meeting.

International banking institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, were monitoring the talks involving more than a dozen foreign ministers to ensure accountability of future financial promises to the quake-stricken country.

Non-governmental organ-

izations that were invited to one session of yesterday's talks said the bankers were tightlipped about their specific plans. Harper told the gathering that it would likely take a decade to rebuild Haiti. He stressed that the money pledged by the international community should be spent properly.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that 10 years of hard work, at least, awaits the world in Haiti," Harper said after participants observed a minute's silence for quake victims.

"We must ensure that every resource committed — every relief worker, every vehicle, every dollar — is used as effectively as possible," Harper said. "We need to focus on effectiveness. The Haitian people deserve that. Our own taxpayers expect it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Olympian's family lose \$8K in scam

GREG DOWNS
for Metro Canada



VANCOUVER

2010 Games

WHISTLER The parents of a champion U.S. Olympic bobsledder were scammed \$8,000 while trying to rent a duplex in Whistler to watch their son compete.

Ben Mesler said that in

addition to losing the money he's struggling to find another place to stay for him and nine friends and relatives.

"We're in a real bind here," he said. "I'm upset, incredibly nervous about

what's going to happen."

His son, Steve Mesler, is competing in his third Winter Olympics as a member of the United States four-men bobsled team that is ranked number one in the world.

Whistler RCMP Const. Joseph MacDonald said they are aware of the issue.

CALGARY

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Comment

Democracy strikes back

NationalReport

Lawrence
Martin

metronews.ca/nationalreport

Considering the calamity in Haiti has overwhelmed all other news, as it should have, the number of Canadians who showed up Sunday for nationwide protests against the suspension of Parliament was impressive.

The people are speaking — in protests and in opinions polls. The story is not going away and the ramifications are many.

Firstly, it's a sign — a damn good sign — that democracy is alive in this country. We hear so often that Canadians don't care, that they're apathetic, that what goes on in Parliament is off their radar. But it sure hasn't looked that way.

Secondly, it's a development that knocks the prime minister from his arrogant perch, that hallowed ground wherein he seems to think he can get away with almost anything. The people have told him they're not going to put up with it. Here's betting you won't see Stephen Harper suspending Parliament for reasons of crass political gain ever again.

Thirdly, the story has revived Liberal party fortunes. Prior to the prorogation, the slumping Michael Ignatieff had almost been written off as another dead Grit walking. But as is so often the case in politics, it's not what you do that counts, it's what your oppo-

nent does. Sometimes, out of the blue — deus ex machina — a big break comes your way. Iggy finally got one.

"We can get more work done, Conservatives say, when Parliament isn't in session ... When the opposition isn't around, it does make life a lot easier. It's tantamount to running a dictatorship."

Fourthly, the Governor General will now take note of how serious the shutting down of Parliament is. In future it will likely take more than just a phone call from the PM. This was the third time, not just twice as many think, that Harper has shut down Parliament in the last year and a half. The first time was when he turned his back on his pledge of fixed election dates to force the 2008 election. Yes, there was an exception to the fixed-date law. An election could be called earlier if the government lost the confidence of

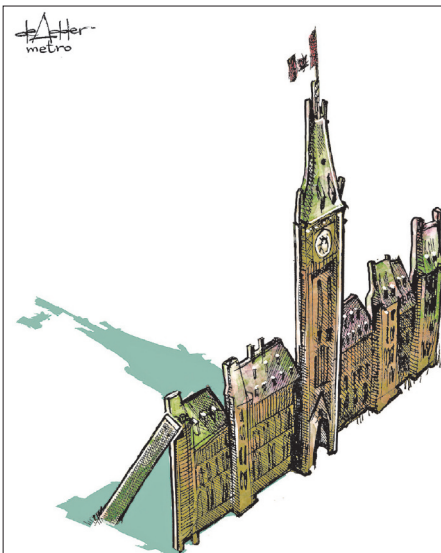
the House. But in that instance the government had not lost the House's confidence.

As for the latest prorogation, Canadians aren't buying the Conservatives' excuses. One of them is that other governments prorogued as well. But no other government has done it three times in 18 months for cynical political reasons.

Then there's the latest rationale, a most revealing one. We can get more work done, Conservatives say, when Parliament isn't in session. That, in fact, is true enough. When the opposition isn't around, it does make life a lot easier. It's tantamount to running a dictatorship.

That's why Canadians are reacting the way they are. They're saying, "Sorry Mr. Harper, you can't have one."

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



CANADIAN DEMOCRACY

Worth mentioning

British boy's bike ride raises \$160K for Haiti

A young British schoolboy has raised more than 100,000 pounds (\$160,000) yesterday for Haiti's relief effort by cycling around his local park.

Charlie Simpson, 7, was so upset by the images

of Haiti's deadly earthquake that he asked his mother if she could help him set up a sponsored bicycle ride around a west London park.

Charlie originally hoped to raise 500 pounds (for UNICEF's Haiti appeal with Sunday's eight-kilometre bike ride), but his Internet page was flooded with donations.

He raised nearly 50,000 pounds in a single day. Charlie's story was

splashed on the front page of Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper yesterday, and money is still flooding in.

"I want to make some money to buy food, water and tents for everyone in Haiti," he said on his fundraising website.

The effort drew the attention of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, with his Downing Street posting on Twitter: "Amazed by response to the great fundraising efforts of 7 yr old."

The boy's mother, Leona Simpson, said she was amazed by the response. "We put it on the web and that was it, it suddenly took off and we can't believe it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Views

Not easy to hack away at federal deficit

InBusiness

Charles
Davies

metronews.ca/inbusiness

Deficit reduction in Canada reminds me of that scene in Monty Python and the Holy Grail where King Arthur encounters a Black Knight who won't let him pass.

As Arthur systematically hacks off his limbs, the Black Knight refuses to acknowledge that anything's wrong. "It's just a flesh wound," he chirps after losing both arms. By the time Arthur is finished with him, he's legless as well.

When Finance Minister Jim Flaherty delivers his budget March 4, he'll have

all his appendages, but little else. The federal government says it can reduce the deficit to nearly zero by fiscal 2014 from more than \$50 billion in the year ending March 31.

But given its planned approach, a combination of spending restraint (holding annual federal spending growth to more like four per cent rather than the six per cent it has been running at in recent years), leaving transfer payments largely untouched, no new taxation, and heavy reliance on economic growth, we'll see limble knights dancing in the streets before the shortfall is eradicated.

You'd think cutting spending in an enterprise as vast and all-encompassing as the federal government would be easy, but no. Federal transfers, a mélange of

equalization payments, health and social transfers, employment insurance, old age supplement payments and the like, are inviolable because it's political suicide to touch them.

They make up 45 per cent of Ottawa's current \$236 billion a year in program spending. About 14 per cent goes to service our national debt, so we can't do anything about that. And 11 per cent goes to international, immigration and defence programs, a tally unlikely to shrink even if our troops are repatriated from Afghanistan starting in 2011. Let's not even think about Haiti.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, a realist unlike the spinmeisters in the Harper government, says Ottawa must save roughly \$19 billion to bal-

ance the budget by 2014. But the longer you look at the federal government's current program spending, the harder it is to see where savings of this order can be made.

There is one possibility. Stockwell Day, who was named president of the Treasury Board in the recent cabinet shuffle, is expected to be Flaherty's hit man in reducing expenditures. Day can start close to home with the Treasury Board secretariat, the board's administrative arm and general manager of the government's operations. The secretariat is spending nearly \$8 billion a year, and it must have some limbs in need of trimming.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.

Haiti
Crisis

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22%

The number of Canadians who have reduced their automobile usage in the last two years in favour of public transit.

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Pope Benedict XVI says the world is marked by religious indifference and a "growing aversion" to Christianity. The pontiff also is urging Christians to overcome their differences through dialogue so that they can unite their efforts to influence debates in society on ethical issues such as abortion and euthanasia. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pope calls for Christian unity

World



Netanyahu's wife sues newspaper

The wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sued an Israeli newspaper yesterday for libel and defamation of character, claiming the Maariv daily is "maliciously trying to humiliate" her. Sara Netanyahu, left, is claiming damages of US \$270,000 and demanding an apology and a correction for a story that stated she fired a 70-year-old gardener at the prime minister's official residence. The gardener lost a son in one of Israel's wars. The suit comes a week after a former housekeeper sued Netanyahu for alleged verbal abuse and other mistreatment. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

French panel report on veils due

FRANCE A French parliamentary panel will recommend a ban on face-covering Muslim veils in public areas from hospitals to schools, but will stop short of pressing for the garb to be outlawed in the street, the panel's president says. The panel's report due today culminates a six-month inquiry into the wearing of all-encompassing veils that began after President Nicolas Sarkozy said in June that they are "not welcome" on French territory. The panel's mission, and a separate national identity debate on immigration, already have left some of France's Muslims feeling discriminated against, said Mohammed Moussaoui, who heads an umbrella group of various Muslim organizations. France has the largest Muslim population in western Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where do they go now?

Government urges people to leave capital as 700,000 lack shelter

Haiti Crisis

The collapse of much of Haiti's capital has a large part of the nation struggling just to find a place to sleep.

As many as one million people — one person in nine across the entire country — need to find new shelter, the United Nations estimates, and there are too few tents, let alone safe buildings, to put them in.

That leaves about 700,000 other people living on the streets around Port-au-Prince under whatever they can salvage. In the case of Jean Anthony's family, that's a blue plastic tarpaulin for a ceiling and a faded



Two men fight over a bag of rice during food distribution in Port-au-Prince yesterday.

pink sheet with a floral print border for two walls. "I'm not sure what you'd call it, but it's much more than terrible," said Anthony, the 60-year-old owner of a collapsed restaurant. Thousands of people were

camped around him yesterday across from the collapsed National Palace, amid piles of trash and the stench of human waste.

"We live like dogs," said Espiegle Amilcar, an unemployed 34-year-old who has been staying under a sheet of plastic nearby. Aid organizations say they are collecting tents, but few so far are in evidence. And the International Organization for Migration, an intergovernmental agency, says it could take experts weeks to search out suitable sites for

Urgent meeting

• The UN says its top human rights body will hold an urgent meeting tomorrow on Haiti. The special session of the Human Rights Council was requested by Brazil.

enough tent cities to hold earthquake refugees.

Haiti's government wants many of the homeless to leave the capital city of two million people, to look for better shelter with relatives or others elsewhere.

An estimated 50,000 to 100,000 people have returned to the region around the coastal city of Gonaïves in northern Haiti, a city abandoned by many after two floods in six years.

"Living in Port-au-Prince is a problem. Going to Gonaïves is another problem," said Maire Delphin Alceus. "Everywhere you go is a problem. If I could, I would have left this country and been somewhere else by now. But I have no way to do that." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

U.S. imposing 'information imperialism'

BEIJING China rebuked the U.S. yesterday, denying involvement in Internet attacks and defending online restrictions after Washington urged Beijing to investigate an attack against Google. The search engine giant announced on Jan. 12 that it would pull out of China unless the government relaxes rules on censorship. The ultimatum came after Google said email accounts of human rights activists had been hacked. Since then, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has criticized censorship of cyberspace. The Foreign Ministry said her remarks damaged relations, while a Chinese newspaper said the U.S. was imposing "information imperialism" on China.

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News in brief

IRAQ Suicide bombers struck in quick succession yesterday at three Baghdad hotels favoured by Western journalists in well-planned assaults that killed at least 37 people and wounded more than 100. The blasts were launched over a span of 15 minutes, shortly before Iraq announced it had hanged Saddam Hussein's notorious henchman "Chemical Ali" and gave rise to speculation about possible links to the attacks.

MISSOURI Police say a man accused of stealing a ring coughed up the evidence while officers were questioning him. Pictures of the two-carat diamond ring worth about \$20,000 US were sent to jewelers after it was reported stolen Thursday. The owner of Newton's Jewelry recognized the ring when a man and woman came in a few hours after the theft and said they wanted to sell it. L.T. Newton stalled them and called police. Police say the man swallowed the ring when officers arrived. While being questioned, he began to cough uncontrollably and eventually coughed it up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Octomom Octoplets turn one



Star

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32 Best & Worst WINTER READY BOOKS

Jen & Gerard THE STEAMY SECRET PHOTOS! Leather, lace & lust

Rihanna's New Man 'HE'S VIOLENT!' — explosive court papers

Rubi & L.A. Dodge Matt Kemp

In this cover image released by Star magazine, the Feb. 1 issue features "Octomom" Nadya Suleman. As the octuplets celebrate their first birthday, the single, unemployed woman is raising 14 children while milking the celebrity media for attention and money that she plans to use to bring up her brood.

2,000 tourists stranded

Heavy rains and mudslides in Peru have blocked the train route to the ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, stranding some 2,000 tourists. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

world 9

Leftist conference begins in Brazil

Thousands of leftists converged yesterday in southern Brazil to spend five days railing against unfettered capitalism at the World Social Forum, the annual countercultural gathering held to protest the bankers and world leaders who will attend the World Economic Forum at a Swiss ski resort.

Organizers expect as many as 15,000 activists from around the world to swarm into Porto Alegre, raising communist flags and shouting socialist slogans as they decry corporate greed as the main reason the planet plummeted into an economic slump.

In contrast, the economic forum that starts tomorrow in Davos, Switzerland, is expected to see fewer leaders than in years past, and U.S. President Barack Obama's plan to clamp down on the size and activity of banks is sure to be on the minds of many of the rich and powerful heading to Switzerland.

Lingering fallout from the financial crisis is proof that the world economy must be retooled to benefit people, not big companies, said Francisco Whitaker, a Roman Catholic activist and co-founder of the social forum who was exiled from Brazil during its 1964-1995 dictatorship.

"The fact that Davos is being held like it's a wake gives the impression that capitalism is on the downfall and hitting its limits," Whitaker said.

Activists are increasingly energized by the prospect of persuading governments to tackle corporate excess and spread more wealth to the needy, he said.

"We're in the midst of true enthusiasm," Whitaker said. "We may not change the world completely and all at once, but the change now can come from the bottom and spread. It's surging and getting toward a critical mass." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Venezuela Fighting censorship



A woman argues with riot police during a protest in Caracas yesterday. Police fired tear gas and plastic bullets to disperse students protesting after President Hugo Chavez's government forced a critical TV channel off cable television.

15 Canadians applied for asylum on grounds of persecution: U.K.

LONDON British government figures show that a number of Canadians and Americans have applied for asylum in the United Kingdom in the past few years on the grounds that they were persecuted in their own countries.

Home Office figures show 15 Canadians and 45 Americans tried to obtain asylum in Britain between 2004 to 2008.

The government says all

of the applicants were refused.

The Home Office was unable to give information explaining why, saying only that all asylum seekers must prove they face persecution at home and that authorities there cannot address it properly.

The figures were made available to the Guardian newspaper, which published them yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neo-nazi group to pick up litter

COLORADO A white supremacist group will be heading out on the roads to pick up litter. The chapter of the National Socialist Movement is participating in an Adopt-A-Highway program in Colorado. The group calls itself America's Nazi Party and it will be responsible for picking up trash along a 1.6-kilometre stretch of highway north of Denver. A sign is already up in the area with the group's name on it.

State highway officials say they allowed the highway adoption because their lawyers said they could be in violation of the group's free speech if they issued a denial.

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News in brief

NEW YORK Two Tamil-Canadians caught by the FBI trying to buy anti-aircraft missiles and other weapons for the Tamil Tigers three years ago have

been sentenced to 25 years in prison. Toronto residents Suhil Sabaratnam and Thani Thani-gasalam were sentenced yesterday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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A small Ontario firm is using retrofitted shipping containers to provide some of the essential equipment aid organizations need when working in areas as devastated as the parts of Haiti damaged in last week's earthquake. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Sydney Zoo view



Google Australia previews its new Street View Trike at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, yesterday. The zoo will be the first location mapped using the new Google vehicle enabling Internet users to view the imagery collected.

El exhaustion possible: Report

Unemployed could see benefits run out with no job prospects

Hundreds of thousands of unemployed Canadians may exhaust their benefits before finding a new job despite improvements to the employment insurance system, according to an analysis by a senior Canadian Labour Congress official.

The analysis by CLC chief economist Andrew Jackson found that 500,000 Canadians who initiated EI claims in 2009 could well see their benefits run out with no job prospects in site.

The report noted that there were 120,000 more unemployed Canadians unable to collect bene-

Rising tide

• The number of Canadians who were collecting benefits rose from about 500,000 to over 809,000 between October 2008 and October 2009,

but the number who were jobless and not collecting benefits also rose, Jackson said. Many of those were women, his report added.

fits as of October 2009 compared with before the recession hit in October 2008.

"We can expect that the total number of new regular claims in 2009 will (have) hit about two million," Jackson said in his report, written for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"If the exhaustion rate were to remain the same as in 2006-07, we could eventually see some 500,000-plus exhausted claims in late 2009 and into 2010," he wrote.

The report gave credit to the government for extending benefits by an additional five weeks. But it said the changes were in-

adequate to handle the additional demands on the system caused by the recession, where at the peak over 400,000 jobs were lost. Even with improvements to the employment insurance system, only about half of those unemployed nationally were collecting benefits as of last October. In Ontario, one of the hardest-hit provinces, that number was as low as 41 per cent, Jackson said.

He noted that the average time it took to find a job stood at 17 weeks as of last September, compared with 13.6 weeks in September 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Middle class under assault: Obama

POLITICS U.S. President Barack Obama is offering help for people struggling to pay bills and care for their families, appealing to a middle-class he says has been "under assault for a long time."

In a partial preview of a state of the union address that aims to answer voter angst about the economy and reconnect with the public, Obama outlined yesterday the series of proposals from the White House. The product of a middle class task force headed by Vice-President Joe Biden, the proposals will also be included in Obama's budget request

due to be submitted to Congress next week.

Among the initiatives: a doubling of the child care tax credit for families earning under \$85,000 US; a \$1.6 billion increase in federal funding for child care programs and a program to cap student loan payments at 10 per cent of income above "a basic living allowance."

His initiatives also include expanding tax credits to match retirement savings and increasing aid for families taking care of elderly relatives. That program would also require many employers to provide the option of a work-

place-based retirement savings plan.

Obama is seeking to offer some attractive options to taxpayers, mindful of the painful implications of the loss of a traditionally Democratic Senate seat in Massachusetts to Republican Scott Brown.

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Ticket merger hit with concessions

MUSIC BIZ The U.S. Department of Justice has imposed major concessions upon Live Nation and Ticketmaster in approving the companies' merger.

Shares in both companies jumped in trading yesterday after reports surfaced earlier that the merger would be approved.

Included in the settlement is a requirement that Ticketmaster Entertainment Inc. license its ticketing software to competitor AEG and sell its subsidiary Paciolan to Comcast Spectacor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Your Money

Asset inventory could uncover hidden money

Alison On Money

Alison Griffiths

metronews.ca/alisononmoney

This is triple witching time — money wise, at any rate. Holiday bills are still not paid, RRSP contributions still not made and tax season looms. This is when I get a rising crescendo of pleas for help. Most of them along the lines of neighbours Julia and Jason: "We just can't find any more money. What are we going to do?"

Answer: The Audit Squad — actually, just moi. I offered to do what I call an excess asset inventory and sift through their possessions to discover superfluous, sellable items. The

only rules were: Don't hide anything and no whining when we're finished.

I started in the garage, so overstuffed they couldn't fit the car in as well. I found a working freezer and a dorm-sized fridge. Sold! \$150. A weight set. Sold! \$35. Beer and wine bottles. Returned! \$22. A '50s chrome dinette set. Sold! \$100. A perfectly good 27" TV. Sold! \$50. A box of 1960s mint condition vinyl albums. Sold! \$225.

Getting the picture? They had almost \$1,500 of malingering assets in the garage, all purchased with credit cards,

which have big balances. In effect they are still paying 19 per cent interest, or almost \$25 a month for this stuff.

I was licking my lips as I headed into the house. Hello Kegerator! There was much resistance from Jason about the pool table (un-racked for three years) and an exercise bike sporting a cobweb hairdo.

Julia enjoyed Jason's dismay until I turned to her bureau. She had gobs of no longer worn costume jewelry plus a drawer filled with gold items either broken or missing a mate. The gold went for \$400 at a gold party.

After the audit, Julia and Jason sold almost \$3,000 worth of stuff which made a big dent in their credit card debt and freed up some money for RRSP contributions. The bonus? They can now get their car in the garage.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.



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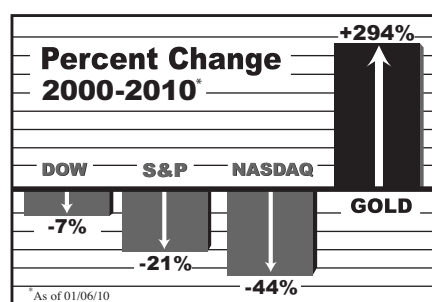
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Financial Planning

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Easy to control your future

Obstacles such as job loss or economic downturn can be overcome with a plan

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada

Financial planning is crucial to meeting many of your life's goals, but many people are afraid of making that first commitment.

Jeff Young, senior manager of financial planning support at RBC, says the first step to taking control of your financial future is to find an expert you trust

who understands you.

"I strongly encourage people to work with an adviser because there are intricacies in financial planning that most individuals are not ready to handle alone. An adviser can really help you get a vision of what your goals are," Young said.

Decide on what your short-, mid- and long-term goals are, and then be realistic about whether

"No matter how much money you have, you can make positive changes for yourself."

Ida Templeton

you'll be able to reach them. If some of your goals are too vague or too lofty (at least for now), it might be time to tackle them in order of importance rather than trying to conquer them all at once.

"Put all your goals together and ask yourself, 'Can I achieve all these goals?' If you can't, it's time to prioritize," Young said.

With people living longer, inflation continually rising, taxes slowly creeping up and economies swerving up and down, Ida Templeton, a director with Canadian financial services firm Investors Group, says some measure of financial planning is crucial for everyone.

"The reason financial planning is so critical is that we all are living under the same financial circumstances. A financial plan allows you to be in a



Having a financial plan can help you to understand what your short-, mid- and long-term goals are.

position where you can control the things you actually have control over," she said.

While certain things in life can be predicted, some of the most challenging situations can happen suddenly, such as a job loss, a death in the family or an economic downturn, and good planning can help you weather those challenges.

"A really critical component of any good financial plan is planning for the

obstacles. Stay close to the fundamentals that build up a very strong foundation in your financial pyramid," Templeton said.

The concept of good and bad debt is important to remember, Templeton says, because the difference has enormous implications for your financial health. Good debt, such as an RRSP loan, can help you meet financial goals in the right situation, whereas bad debt, such as credit card interest, can

hold you back from those goals.

Templeton says that no matter how long you've waited to set out on a financial plan, it's never too late to start.

"I think people underestimate the power and opportunity they have, and a lot of times it just means asking the right questions. Be conscious and realize that no matter how much money you have, you can make positive changes for yourself," Templeton said.

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ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

When it comes to financial planning, there's no time like the present.

"It doesn't matter if you're in your 20s, 40s or 80s, as long as you start," said Laura Rossiter, a consultant with Investors Group Toronto Midtown.

But the earlier you start, the stronger your plan will be and the better your saving habits will become over time, she added.

There are a number of ways to develop a financial plan, says Tamara Smith, vice-president of marketing and consumer affairs for the Financial Planning Standards Council.

Start by setting life goals, tracking how much

you spend over the course of a month, setting a monthly budget and sticking to it, and trying to save 10 per cent of your take-home salary, she said.

"It's like a diet, you've got to start the first day and then you go the second day and the third day and you just keep at it," Smith said.

The next step is to make an appointment with a financial adviser.

Most major banks provide financial planning as a complimentary service for customers, but the service may be attached to products such as RRSPs, a mortgage, or a savings account.

Other groups, such as Moneyadviser.ca, offer financial advice without the attachment to products, but charge a fee for the service.

Whatever route you choose, it's important to talk to a professional, says Kevin Macleod, certified financial planner and vice-president of Moneyadviser.ca in Calgary.

"I think there's a lot of misinformation that gets poured down our throats about money," he said.

A financial planner helps you sort through the maze of information out there and figures out what works best for you,

he said.

Finally, when looking for a financial adviser, make sure they know what they're talking about.

"Most provinces do not have any regulations around who can call themselves financial planners, so it's really a buyer beware market," Smith said.

The Certified Financial Planning credential is the largest, identifiable, credentialled body in the industry, she said. There are 17,500 CFP professionals in Canada and the Financial Planning Standards Council website, fpssc.ca, provides a databank of certified professionals across the country.

"It's one of the best ways to find someone who is truly competent and ethical," Smith said.

Sticking to a budget similar to a diet: Expert

"It doesn't matter if you're in your 20s, 40s or 80s, as long as you start." Laura Rossiter

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The brother of figure skater Nancy Kerrigan pleaded not guilty yesterday to assaulting their 70-year-old father, who died over the weekend after a disturbance at the family's Massachusetts home. Mark Kerrigan, 45, was ordered held on \$10,000 US cash bail after his arraignment yesterday in Woburn District Court. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Cormier suspended for rest of the year

HIT The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League hopes it has sent a strong message against dangerous, illegal hits by suspending Patrice Cormier for the rest of the season and the playoffs.

The league handed down one of the longest suspensions in its history yesterday when it banned the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies centre for elbowing Quebec Remparts defenceman Mikael Tam in the face and sending him to hospital with brain trauma and several broken teeth in a game Jan. 17.

League disciplinarian Raymond Bolduc, who took a week to investigate the incident before rendering his decision, called the hit "dangerous and unacceptable."

"The message is very important — we don't want those types of gestures in our league," he said.

In Quebec City, the Remparts were satisfied with the decision, and said it was up to Tam and his family whether to pursue legal action against Cormier. Tam is to undergo fur-

Public opinion

- Most Canadians believe that violent hits to the head are not only avoidable in hockey, they are usually premeditated, according to the results of a Canadian Press/Harris Decima survey.
- The sentiment is strongest in Quebec, where 80 per cent of respondents said they felt head shots are unnecessary.

ther medical tests this week to determine the extent of his injuries and when, or if, he will be able to return to the ice.

Cormier was the captain of the Canadian world junior team and is known as a physical player. He hammered Sweden's Anton Rodin with a similar elbow to the face during an exhibition game prior to the tournament in December.

The 19-year-old from Cap-Pele, N.B., was drafted by New Jersey in the second round in 2008 and signed a three-year entry-level contract with the Devils last summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blues blank fading Flames

NHL RESULTS

Blues 2 Flames 0



Ty Conklin made 34 saves for his third shutout of the season as the St. Louis Blues beat the struggling Calgary Flames 2-0 yesterday.

Patrik Berglund and David Perron scored for St. Louis (23-21-8). The Blues moved to within four points of the Flames and the Detroit Red Wings, who are tied for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Trailing 1-0 after 40 minutes, Calgary tried to get their offence going in the third period when they outshot the Blues 7-0 over the first 10 minutes, but they could not solve Conklin.

Rene Bourque had a partial breakaway on a power play, but he was stopped. Seconds later, his deflection in front was also turned aside by Conklin.

Perron then gave the Blues some insurance with his 15th goal at 11:21 of the third. Andy McDonald drew two Flames towards him then threaded a pass through the slot to Perron



St. Louis Blues goalie Ty Conklin keeps Calgary Flame Dustin Boyd away from the puck during first period action in Calgary yesterday.

on the other side, who whipped a shot into the open side before Miikka Kiprusoff could get across.

Calgary (26-20-6) has lost six in a row and is winless in its last seven. Calgary is 0-5-1 in its last six games at the Pengrowth Saddledome.

The sell-out crowd of

19,289 had little to cheer about all night, with Brian McGrattan's rousing first period scrap with Cam Janssen the lone highlight.

The disenchantment with the home side grew as the game wore on, with sporadic booing when the Flames exited the ice after the game. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Streking Sens can thank hot goalie and healthy lineup for six-game winning streak. Scan this code for the story.

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NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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Boston 95 L.A. Clippers 89
Chicago 98 San Antonio 93
Cleveland 92 Miami 91
Indiana 109 Philadelphia 98
Memphis 99 Orlando 94
Charlotte at Denver
Phoenix at Utah
New Orleans at Portland

Henin through to semifinals

AUSTRALIAN OPEN Former No. 1-ranked Justine Henin reached the semifinals in her Grand Slam comeback, beating Nadia Petrova 7-6 (3), 7-5 early today to take out the last seeded player in her half of the Australian Open draw.

Henin, unranked and playing on a wild-card entry at Melbourne Park, next will play Wimbledon semifinalist Zheng Jie, who beat Russia's Maria Kirilenko 6-1, 6-3 to equal her Chinese record for the best run at a major.

Henin went down a break in the second set before finding the range with her powerful groundstrokes and winning seven of the next nine games to finish off No. 19-seeded Petrova.

"I just went for it with my heart. Finally I could



"I just went for it with my heart. Finally I could make it, and I'm very happy."

Justine Henin

make it, and I'm very happy," Henin said.

"At the end I played much more aggressive tennis.

"I didn't want to go to the tiebreaker. I wanted to close out the match."

The 27-year-old Belgian beat Petrova on Jan. 4 at the Brisbane International in her first match back on tour after almost 20 months in retirement.

Henin reached the Brisbane final, where she lost in three sets to fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters.

It was Clijsters' win at the U.S. Open last September, in the third tour-

nament of a comeback from two years in retirement, which inspired seven-time Grand Slam winner Henin to return to the tour.

Now she's two wins from emulating Clijsters' triumphant Grand Slam comeback.

Henin ended a highly successful run in Melbourne for Petrova, who ousted two reigning major champions on her way to the quarters: Clijsters in the third round; and French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in the fourth.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

SOCCER Salvador Cabanas, the top player on Paraguay's World Cup team, was shot in the head before dawn yesterday in the bathroom of a bar in a well-off neighbourhood in Mexico City. The 29-year-old striker underwent surgery in which doctors failed to remove a bullet lodged in his skull.

NBA The New Orleans Hornets traded starting shooting guard Devin Brown to the Chicago Bulls for backup seven-foot centre Aaron Gray. Brown, 31, has played in 39 games for New Orleans this season, starting all but two. He is averaging 9.7 points per game.

WORLD CUP A deal for Europe to host the 2018 World Cup is being negotiated, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said. England, Russia and joint bids from Spain and Portugal, and Belgium Netherlands are currently competing to host the 2018 or 2022 World Cup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Timmer fails to qualify for Olympics

Olympic champion speedskater Marianne Timmer failed to qualify for the Vancouver Games yesterday and won't get a chance to defend her 1,000-metre long-track title next month. In a three-way skate-off, the 35-year-old Dutchwoman could only manage third place. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Yzerman keeps eye on players' injuries

Team Canada roster features growing infirmity list

These are the truly anxious moments for Steve Yzerman.

Since he unveiled Team Canada's line-up at the end of December, the executive director has seen Marc-Andre Fleury, Brenden Morrow, Dan Boyle, Patrice Bergeron and Ryan Getzlaf miss games because of injury.

Even though all 23 of his original picks are still expected to be in Vancouver next month, Yzerman knows that could change on any given night. He's found it a tad difficult to relax while waiting for the Games to start, especially given that something bad could happen to one of his players in the meantime.

"Just sitting between announcing the team and (the time leading) up to the Olympics is the most difficult part," Yzerman told The Canadian Press in a recent interview. "There's not a whole lot you can do at this point. You're sitting wondering if you've got injured guys, how are they going to be? I'm just watching guys play."

While Bergeron (broken



Bruins centre Patrice Bergeron, who was named to Canada's Olympic squad, recently returned from a broken right thumb.

right thumb) and Getzlaf (leg) have both returned to action, the other three players were on the sidelines at the end of last week.

Injuries could play a big role in these Olympics because teams won't be carrying a taxi squad like they did four years ago in Turin. Each country will register

its final 23-man roster Feb. 15 — the night before the tournament begins — and no one else will be eligible to suit up at the event.

As a result, teams will be reluctant to bring any players with nagging problems that might be easily aggravated in Vancouver. Yzerman and his Olympic man-

Fast approaching

- The NHL shuts its doors for the Olympic break Feb. 14, leaving teams with between eight and 11 games to play before Team Canada faces Norway in Vancouver Feb. 16.

agement group have been sure to monitor each situation as closely as possible.

There's reason to believe this Canadian Olympic squad might have more success on the scoresheet than the 2006 version.

A number of the team's players have been hot of late, with Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby leading the way last week by scoring eight points in three games. That included a six-point night against the Islanders on Jan. 19 to match his career high for a game.

It was also a good few days for Eric Staal, who has scored five goals in three games since replacing Rod Brind'Amour as captain of the Carolina Hurricanes. He'll be one of nine Canadian players at the Olympics who captains an NHL team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'There has to be that kind of disappointment to make it great'

FREESTYLE It has been said Canada has the depth in men's hockey to field two teams at next month's Olympics.

The same could be argued when it comes to the country's 18-member Olympic freestyle ski team, which was officially announced yesterday with several world-class athletes notably absent.

"As much as it's difficult, that's what makes this great, that it's not easy," said Canadian Freestyle Ski Association CEO Peter Judge of making the Olympic team.

"If it were easy, then everybody would be doing it. There has to be that kind of disappointment to make it great, and that's what makes this such an honour."

With the addition of ski cross to the Olympics this year, the already fierce competition for spots on the Canadian freestyle ski team became all the more crowded.

Of the 18 athletes who will represent Canada in Vancouver, seven will com-

pete in ski cross, seven in moguls and four in aerials.

One athlete from each discipline — Ashleigh McIvor in ski cross, Jennifer Heil in moguls and Steve Omischl in aerials — was pre-selected prior to this season for the Games. That left 15 spots up for grabs using a complex scoring system to classify athletes from three very different sports onto one master list.

In ski cross, Canada has the second, third and fourth-ranked women in the world in Julia Murray of Whistler, B.C., Kelsey Serwa of Kelowna, B.C., and McIvor, also of Whistler. On the men's side Chris Del Bosco of Vail, Colo., is ranked third in the world and Calgary's Stanley Hayer is the defending X-Games champion.

Among those left off the team are ski crosser Davey Barr of Whistler, who finished third at the 2009 world championships, and men's aerialist Ryan Blais of Grande Prairie, Alta., who came up just short for the second Olympics in a row.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snowboard team mixes youth, experience

TEAM CANADA Four years ago, a 13-year-old Palmer Taylor was on the edge of her sofa watching the world's best snowboarders attack the Olympic halfpipe on TV.

During next month's Vancouver Winter Games, she's going to be much closer to the action as Canada's youngest snowboarder.

Taylor, now 17, has joined a team of riders that Canadians will be counting on to produce Olympic hardware.

The 18 riders — 10 men and eight women from the sport's three disciplines — were formally introduced Monday in Quebec City.

Inside the halfpipe, Tay-

lor will join Olympic veterans Sarah Conrad of Dartmouth and Mercedes Nicoll of Whistler, B.C.

Taylor, a member of the national development team, can't wait to challenge her heroes on the ice walls of the superpipe.

"My dad, he had his arm around me and I was like, 'Dad, I want to do that,'" recalled Taylor, who watched the 2006 Turin Games at her family's home in Collingwood, Ont.

"And what do you know? Here I am now."

The Canadian snowboard team will bring a

mix of experience and youth to the Olympics. It will also carry some lofty medal expectations.

World No. 1 Maëlle Ricker of West Vancouver, and second-ranked Dominique Maltais of Petite-Rivière-St-Francois, Que., will lead the way in snowboard cross, a bruising, high-speed event.

Maltais won Canada's only snowboard medal in Turin, where she captured the bronze.

Members of the men's boardercross team could also climb the podium in Vancouver.

The deep squad includes

No. 4-ranked Robert Fagan of Squamish, B.C., Mike Robertson of Canmore, Alta., Francois Boivin of Jonquiere, Que., and 35-year-old snowboard-cross warrior, Drew Neilson of North Vancouver.

Jasey-Jay Anderson of Mont-Tremblant, Que., the defending world champion in parallel giant slalom, returns to the Games for the fourth time. He will be gunning for his first Olympic podium.

Michael Lambert of Toronto, ranked No. 4 in the world, and Matthew Morison of Burketon, Ont., round out a strong men's alpine team that could also challenge for medals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. newborns are arriving a little smaller, says puzzling new Harvard research that can't explain why. The average birth weight of full-term babies is just under 7 1/2 pounds, a drop of about 1.8 ounces. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Health & Beauty

The roles of attraction

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

metronews.ca/thejspot

An online dating website that recently expelled 5,000 members, including 500 Canadians, because they no longer met the site's beauty standards has — not surprisingly — met with a lot of criticism.

Frankly, given the unapologetic and blatantly provocative response from the site's management, I think the whole thing reeked of a publicity stunt so I don't care give them any more free publicity by naming the site.

But, stunt or no stunt, it did raise the question about how honest we are when it comes to the importance of looks when it comes to meeting people.

While most guys in my own very unofficial survey admitted that looks matter, most at least tried to pretend that what attracts them physically to a woman went beyond the superficial, with several citing "a woman's eyes" as the first thing that draws them in. Hands came in a close second.

"They're lying," countered one of the many women I asked who cited "sense of humour" as what turned her crank.

That's right, because looks are only more important to men. "Oh, and a developed upper body, of course," she added. Bingo. Another male respondent pointed out that both eyes and a sense of humour are ridiculous answers.

"What am I going to say?"

"Man look at that woman across the street, great eyes, and what a funny hat, she must have a great sense of humour."

Okay, so maybe we're all lying to ourselves. Looks do matter. Still, when pressed, most people will tell you that, when it comes to attraction, looks might get your foot in the door, but if they don't like what greets them once they get inside, they're just as likely to turn around and walk back out.



Michelle Obama

As American First Lady Michelle Obama told Glamour magazine when they asked her for dating advice, "Cute's good," she said. "But cute only lasts for so long and then it's, 'Who are you as a person?'"

Ultimately, when it comes to lasting relationships, having similar morals, values, world views and goals in life play a way bigger role than physical attraction.

In fact, given the importance of all this other stuff, physical attraction seems like a pretty misguided and unreliable starting point when it comes to finding a mate.

Maybe I should start should start my own exclusive dating site for the rest of us.

What do you think? eragelookingpeoplewithlotsofthergreatstufftooffer.com

No beautiful people allowed.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

Medical maggots matter

Inching back the red tape on production

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Medical maggots have been making a comeback. But it bugs wound clinicians that Canadians can't get access to maggots the way Americans can.

Creepy as it sounds, maggots are actually very helpful in treating serious wounds. They eat dead tissue and destroy bacteria, while leaving healthy tissue untouched.

For people who are facing the horror of possible amputation, maggots can be a practical, inexpensive and efficient solution.

"Most patients with chronic, draining, stinking, limb-threatening wounds, often having already suffered weeks or months with them, recognize that 48 hours or more of maggot therapy is much less 'icky' and scary than their wounds," says Dr. Ron Sherman, director of Monarch Labs in Irvine, California, which supplies maggots to hospitals in Canada and the U.S.

In order to be effective, maggots must arrive at the bedside starving and be used right away. So timing is crucial.

But here's the snag. Health Canada recently reclassified maggots as "drugs" instead of "devices," and this has slowed to a crawl the process of getting them across the border.



Think of these wriggly little creatures not as, well, gross, but as a miniature surgeon. Maggots are making a medical comeback, cleaning out wounds that just won't heal.

"In order to be effective, maggots must arrive at the bedside starving and be used right away. So timing is crucial."

Until last year, it took about 24 hours for them to arrive. But it can now take up to three weeks, according to Christine Pearson, a B.C. nurse and board member of the Canadian Association of Wound Care, who spoke to the Canadian Medical Association Journal about the issue.

"The problem with ship-

ping maggots is that they are not only live, but highly perishable. They can not be fed during their journey, or else they will no longer be 'hungry' and effective upon arrival at the bedside," says Sherman.

Maggots are approved by the U.S. FDA but not Health Canada. No company in Canada can manufacture or market maggots until a large clinical trial is done here, but funding is scarce and bureaucratic red tape is abundant, according to Sherman.

Monarch has been sending medical maggots to Canada for 18 years. Last year, they received about 50 orders for maggots, by clinicians in Alberta, British Columbia, New

Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. But with the new rules, reported Pearson, ordering maggots is a big hassle for Canadian doctors and nurses.

The best solution would be to set up a maggot-producing laboratory in Canada, says Sherman, and thereby cut down on the delays and frustrations of importing creepy, crawly insects across the border.

Monarch Labs is actively seeking research funding to do Canadian clinical trials of medical maggots.

Then, Monarch would request marketing clearance "if the results are anywhere near as favourable as they have been in the U.S. studies," he adds.

Snowshoeing breaks a serious sweat

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

ACTIVITIES Looking for a way to get in shape this winter? Try snowshoeing: it's easy and fun, and it'll burn more than 500 calories per hour. Snowshoes are now light-weight and can be purchased for men, women or children. They generally cost anywhere from \$80 to \$300, and are easy to transport.

Dressing for snowshoe-

ing is similar to dressing for a winter run or cross-country skiing. You will be very warm when you are in motion, but need to have layers handy to put back on when finished. You should wear comfortable — not too bulky — footwear such as hiking boots, and you may want to purchase a pair of gaiters to keep your ankles dry. Most people like to snowshoe with ski poles for support, but it is not absolutely necessary.



Snowshoeing is a great way to stay fit in the winter months.

Snowshoes have teeth or grips built in so that you can trek up and down hills without slipping. The best fun is snowshoeing with a group. Take your dog along too!

Snowshoeing can be an all-day affair or a quick walk in the park. You can start in your own backyard and then venture further into snowy forests and meadows.

For a list of parks across Canada, go to out-there.com.

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GIVE YOUR SKIN A FRESH START FOR THE NEW YEAR A RESOLUTION THAT IS EASY TO KEEP

Lose 10 pounds, start a fitness routine, engage in volunteer work. Most of us use the new year as a chance to take stock of our lives and resolve to make changes in a variety of areas. Although we approach these changes with utmost sincerity, it's not always easy to keep up the momentum. But don't despair. Research has shown that it is easier to reach your goal if you have set it yourself. There are many changes that are within your control.

Take your skin for example. At this time of year, it's easy for it to feel unloved due to cold, dry outdoor air, artificial indoor heating and hot showers. The harsh conditions of Canadian winters can strip away the oils from the surface layer of skin. Once the surface layer is compromised, skin can no longer retain its moisture. As a result, skin on the face and body tends to be in worse condition during the winter months than at other times of the year.

But January is a great time to make a commitment to taking better care of the skin on your body. Luckily the majority of factors that lead to dry skin are external and controllable and with care and attention, they can be treated and prevented. This means protecting your outer layer from the elements and taking the time to exfoliate, cleanse and moisturize. If you stick to your routine, your body will reap the rewards.

Dry skin can appear anywhere on the body but hands, arms, lower legs, elbows, back, knees and abdomen are the most common areas. Often it feels like the skin is tightened or annoyingly itchy, but on some people, dry skin can be noticeable and very problematic. In extreme cases, dry skin can lead to inflammation of the skin which can manifest as redness, swelling, crusting, weeping, cracks and fissures. These open cracks and fissures may lead to skin infection.

The New year is
a great time to make
a commitment to
taking better care of
the skin on your body

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five days after use. Formulated with ingredients that help combat dryness, including, VitaNiacin and Vitamin E, Quench Advanced Relief is non-greasy and fragrance-free.

New year, new you

Throw out those overwhelming, hard-to-follow resolutions and focus on goals that may be easier to achieve. Here are some easy-to-implement tips for making skin care a priority this year. Remember, a few minutes a day can make a world of difference in your skin's appearance!

1. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SKIN CARE REGIMEN, START ONE

It's as easy as 1-2-3. Moisturize your body and face daily to help restore the natural oils and moisture in your skin. And always remember to clean your face to remove makeup, oil, daily grime and pollutants.

2. PROTECT YOUR SKIN FROM THE SUN

Applying a moisturizer with UV protection every morning is the most important step you can take to protect your skin. You may not see the results immediately but your skin will thank you in years to come.

3. ADD AN AT-HOME TREATMENT TO YOUR ROUTINE

At-home versions of treatments are growing in popularity. Try Olay Thermal Pedicure for your feet. Used twice or even once a month, at-home treatments can help to reveal younger-looking, fresher skin.

4. GIVE YOUR HANDS THE MOISTURE TREATMENT

Gloves or no gloves, hands can suffer from the harshness of the cold season. Relieve dry, winter hands with a good hand lotion.

OLAY®



Starting this week Tim Hortons adds English muffin breakfast sandwiches to its morning menu. To celebrate this introduction, participating restaurants are offering all hot breakfast sandwiches for a limited-time price of \$1.99. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food



Yogurt cheese cuts calories

Savvy dieters know the value of yogurt cheese. Made by straining yogurt until it's thick and spreadable, yogurt cheese offers the satisfaction of cream cheese without all the calories. Loblaws has built on this simple idea. Its new Blue Menu yogurt spreads are convenient. The spreads are launching in early February. Price: \$2.50 for a 227-gram tub. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Liquid Assets

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metronews.ca/liquidassets

A perfect start

Would you like something to drink while you look at the menu?

I used to hate that question, especially when it's served-up on my first visit to a restaurant. My waiter will let me spend as much intimate time as I want with the appetizer list, but always seems to think I know everything they've got behind the bar without looking.

I found the liquid answer on my first trip to Italy. Most Italians will start a fine meal with **Campari** (\$24.70 - \$26.99) - a bright red aperitif invented in Milan back in 1860. Made from a secret blend of 60 herbs, spices and neutral spirit, it's considered a bitter.

Though that bitterness becomes all too apparent if you drink it straight, mixing one ounce with two ounces of soda water (over ice) reveals Campari's palate cleansing properties. That combination makes for a great after dinner digestive as well. Substitute the soda with orange juice and you've got a perfect beverage for brunch.

Now just in case you don't think booze from the 19th century can't be hip in the new millennium; look for the close-up of a bottle of Campari early on in Lady Gaga's Lovegagame video.



Personal Gourmet recipe of the month

ROSE REISMAN

Lighten up your chili



Rose Reisman's Potato Corn Chowder.

Potato Corn Chowder

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES

COOK TIME: 30 MINUTES

Traditional corn chowder is usually prepared with excess cream and butter. My version uses evaporated milk, and you'll be surprised at how creamy and rich the soup tastes. Charring the corn gives the soup a fresher flavor.

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups corn nibbles (canned or fresh)
- 1 1/2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 cup peeled and diced potato
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 tsp hot chili sauce (or finely chopped jalapeño pepper)
- 2 tsp all-purpose flour
- 1 cup canned evaporated milk (2%)
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 3 Tbsp chopped parsley

METHOD:

1. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with cooking spray and set over medium heat. Sauté the corn for about 8 minutes, stirring often or just until lightly browned. Purée half of the corn in a small food processor. Combine the puréed corn with the whole corn in a small bowl and set aside.

2. Add the oil to a large, nonstick pot and set over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté for about 4 minutes. Add the red pepper and sauté for another 2 minutes. Add the potato, stock, chili sauce and corn mixture. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, for about 15 minutes or until the potato is tender.

3. Whisk together the flour and milk in a small bowl and gradually add to the soup. Add the salt and pepper. Simmer, stirring occasionally for 3 minutes or until slightly thickened and heated through. Garnish with parsley.



Rose Reisman's Tex Mex Chili.

Tex Mex Chili

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES

COOK TIME: 25 MINUTES

This is a great, lighter chili typically served in the Southwest. Using chicken rather than beef reduces the calories and fat. Dusting the chicken with flour maintains the moisture. Aged cheddar is the perfect accompaniment. Add diced avocado to the list of garnishes if you like. **SERVES 6**

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 oz skinless boneless chicken breasts (about 3 breasts), diced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion

- 1 cup canned corn, drained
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 1/2 cups canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 1/2 cups tomato sauce (or store-bought spaghetti sauce)
- 3/4 cup chicken (or beef) stock
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 1/2 tsp seeded and finely chopped jalapeño pepper (or 1 1/2 tsp hot chili sauce)
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro

Comfort without calories!

About Rose



Rose Reisman is an author, media personality, nutritionist, and the inspiration behind a fresh food delivery service, Personal Gourmet, and new website, The Art of Living Well. Visit Rose at rosereisman.com & personalgourmet.ca

or parsley

- 1/2 cup shredded aged light cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup low-fat sour cream

METHOD:

1. Place the chicken and flour in a bowl and toss to coat. Lightly coat a nonstick saucepan with cooking spray, add 1 tsp of the vegetable oil and set over medium heat. Sauté the chicken for 5 minutes or until it is lightly browned on all sides, but do not cook through. Set aside.

2. Re-spray the same saucepan, add the remaining vegetable oil and set over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until soft, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes. Stir in the corn and garlic and continue to cook and stir for 5 minutes or until the corn is browned.

3. Stir in the beans, tomato sauce, stock, chili powder, basil, oregano, jalapeño, salt and pepper.

4. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and cover. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add the diced chicken and simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes or until the chicken is just cooked through and the chili thickens. Serve the chili in bowls, and garnish with cilantro, cheese and sour cream.

High protein, potassium-rich snack for those afternoon cravings

Peanut Butter Banana Muffins

INGREDIENTS:

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) unsalted butter
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) peanut butter
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) whole

wheat flour

- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 250 ml (1 cup) very ripe mashed bananas, about 2 large

- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla
- 75 ml (3/4 cup) unsalted peanuts, chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 190 C (375 C). Lightly spray or grease 12 muffin tins.

2. In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in peanut butter. Pour into a large bowl

to cool. In a medium bowl, place flours, baking powder, cinnamon and baking soda. Whisk together, ensuring there are no lumps.

3. Stir sugar into cooled peanut butter mixture. Then stir in eggs until completely blended. Stir in bananas and vanilla. Gradually add flour mixture, stirring just until com-

bined.

4. Spoon into muffin tins. Sprinkle with peanuts, gently pushing into batter. Bake in centre of preheated oven until golden and a skewer inserted in centre comes out clean, 16 to 18 minutes.

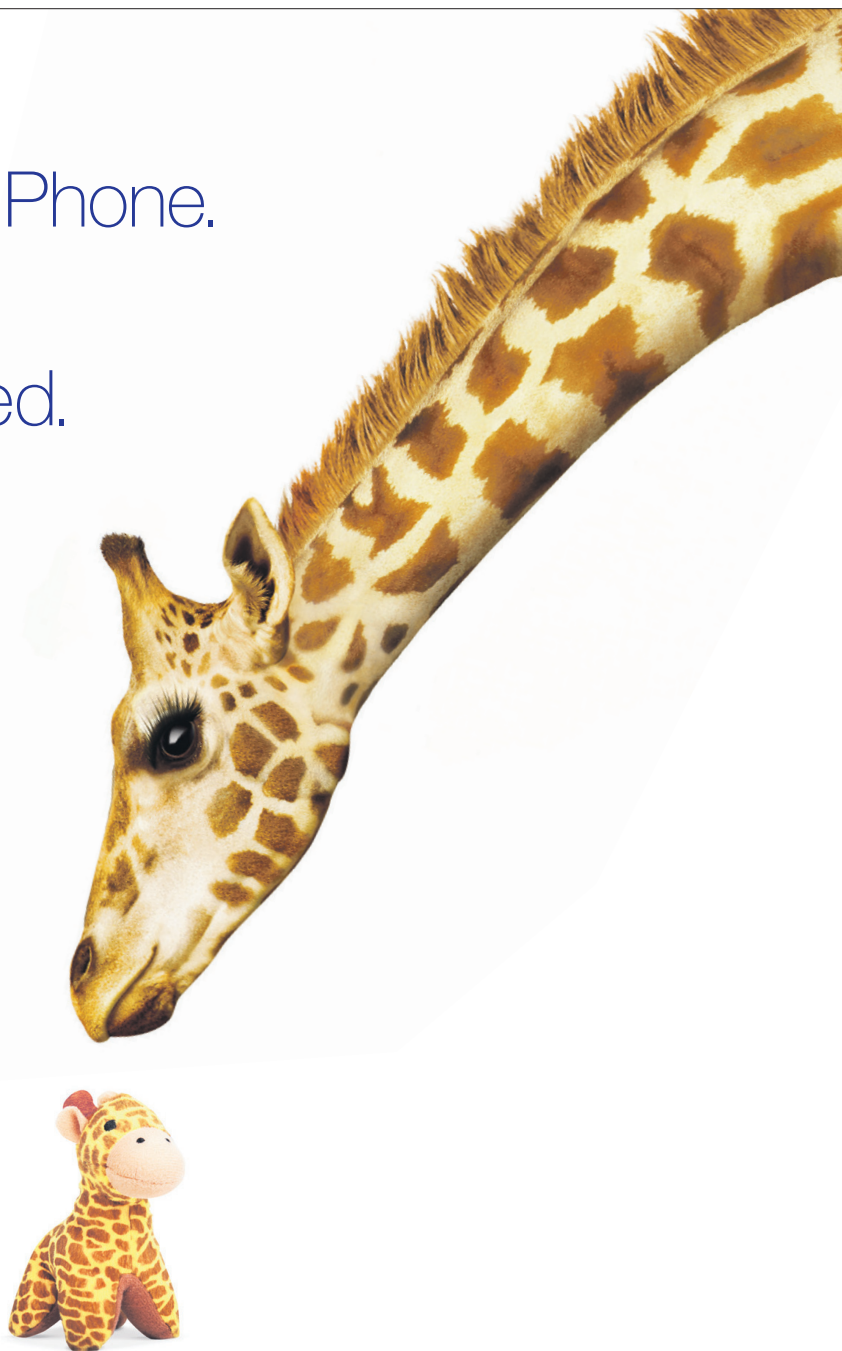
5. Remove muffins from pan to a rack to cool.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Peanut Butter Banana Muffins.

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Keef quits drinking

Keith Richards has given up alcohol. The Rolling Stones guitarist — who is known for his hellraising lifestyle — hasn't downed a drink in four months, despite previously claiming he would never become teetotal. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONWS.CA



Johnny's alive

Johnny Depp's rep was forced to confirm that the Pirates of the Caribbean star is alive and well after a rumour swept Twitter over the weekend claiming Depp had died in a car crash in France. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Prop 8 doc protest-free

No Mormon opposition at Sundance screening

Despite rumoured anti-gay marriage protests, a Sundance Film Festival documentary about the Mormon church's role in a 2008 California political battle over gay marriage played to a friendly audience on Sunday in Park City.

Only about two dozen gay marriage activists chanted — "Separate, church from 8" — in a parking lot outside the premiere of 8: The Mormon Proposition.

The film by Reed Cowan, a former Utah Mormon, contends that the locally based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the driving force behind Proposition 8.

The ballot initiative reversed an earlier court decision that legalized gay

marriage. Before the screening, festival director John Cooper had said he expected a small, but loud, group of "haters," might picket the film, but doubted that Mormon church members would be among them.

"It's not really the Mormon style," said Cooper, who is gay and married his partner of 20 years last year during the window between the court ruling and election day.

A Utah-based anti-gay equality group, America Forever, sent out 80,000 faxes on Friday denouncing the movie, its makers and the festival on Friday.



Directors Steven Greenstreet, left, and Reed Cowan have brought their documentary 8: The Mormon Proposition to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Sundance Film Festival

Internet chatter among other anti-gay groups had also hinted they might come to Sundance, activist Eric Ethington said.

Mormon church officials have consistently called for a polite, respectful dialogue on the issue.

The church has actively fought marriage equality legislation across the U.S. since the early 1990s.

The movie made one

"It might be interesting to go down and sit at the Mormon church and engage in a dialogue."

Moviegoer
Carolyne Simpson

moviegoer — Carolyne Simpson of San Diego — want to engage in a produc-

tive dialogue. Simpson, who isn't Mormon, said she supports gay marriage.

"What I come away with is that it might be interesting to go down and sit at the Mormon church and engage in a dialogue, and say, 'Tell me what you believe and here's what I believe,'" the 65-year-old said. "This is the time we should be talking to each other."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. in denial about JFK killing: Stone

CONSPIRACY THEORY

Hollywood filmmaker Oliver Stone said yesterday the United States remains in denial over the possibility that someone other than Lee Harvey Oswald could have assassinated John F. Kennedy, calling it a "national fairy tale."

Speaking to 300 high school students in the Thai capital, Bangkok, Stone said exploring alternative theories over the JFK assassination remains too sensitive for those in the media or academia.

"To this day, many key Americans in power are in total denial about this story," Stone said.

Stone was in Bangkok to talk about filmmaking and peace as part of a series of talks facilitated by the Vienna-based International Peace Foundation.

His 1991 film JFK, which he acknowledged was his most controversial, ridicules the Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald acted alone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ben Affleck, right, and Tommy Lee Jones star in The Company Men which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Company Men takes hard look at recession

SUNDANCE The recession has hit Ben Affleck. He's out of work, saying goodbye to his beloved Porsche, losing his home, stuck moving back in with his parents.

Affleck stars in The Company Men, a Sundance Film Festival premiere in which he plays a man who loses all the material wealth he has accumulated when his high-paying job

as a sales executive is eliminated in a round of cutbacks at his firm. His character learns, like many unemployed Americans, that along with the stuff, he has lost a big part of his identity when his job goes away.

"It's sort of an existential crisis," Affleck said. "This sort of shame and difficulty in saying, 'Well, what am I? Well, I'm not really this. I can't really say I'm X if I'm

not making money at it."

The Company Men is kind of the flipside of George Clooney and Jason Reitman's recession tale Up in the Air. In the latter, Clooney plays the hitman, the guy who goes around firing people at downsizing companies. The Company Men centres on the people losing their jobs.

"I tell people who ask me about it that, if you were in-

terested in those people that Jason Reitman interviewed and put into the film who really lost their jobs, that this movie begins as they walk out of that room. This movie is really about what happened to those people," said John Wells, the man behind ER who makes his feature-film writing and directing debut on The Company Men.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Julia Roberts is the new face of Lancome. The Duplicity actress is thrilled to have landed the slot in the luxury beauty brand's advert and admits fronting the skincare line has been a long-running "dream" of hers. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Producer Timbaland says "I Love Nickelback."

In defence of Nickelback

Hip-hop and R&B producer Timbaland has joined a small group of music hitmakers who have publicly pledged support for one of the world's most-maligned bands, Nickelback.

Coldplay's Chris Martin raised some eyebrows during an interview in 2008 when he said he had "nothing but respect" for the Canadian band and added, "I think they're great."

Now Timbaland has praised the band that so many music fans have condemned.

Despite Nickelback's stellar track record of CD sales, and a recent "band of the 2000s" honour bestowed by Billboard magazine, the group continues to get little respect from critics and music aficionados.

But when Timbaland — whose real name is Timothy Mosley — drew up a short list of artists he wanted to work with on his latest album, *Shock Value II*, he thought of Nickelback frontman Chad Kroeger.

The album also includes collaborations with fellow Canadians Drake and Nelly Furtado and other music superstars including Justin Timberlake and Miley Cyrus.

Timbaland sought out

Kroeger for the track *Tomorrow in the Bottle* and got a "very easy" yes, he said.

"I just love Nickelback's music," he said. "That's why I reached out to Chad."

As for working with Drake, Timbaland said he sent the young rapper a track based on "his voice, his tone."

"It just sounded like his type of style," Timbaland said of the music behind "Say Something," which Timbaland also raps on.

Timbaland said it's hard to pinpoint exactly how Drake became one of the biggest stars in hip hop so quickly, based on the strength of just a few mixtapes and no major-label albums.

"Everything is timing, maybe it was the right timing, he popped up at the right time," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crazy ideas drive OK GO

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

When OK GO uploaded a now wildly popular video (49 million and counting) for Here It Goes Again three-and-a-half years ago, they had no idea how popular it would become. "It's weird," says frontman Damian Kulash, still sounding a bit surprised by the popularity of

his treadmill-dancing clip.

The Los Angeles-based foursome didn't set out to create one of the most talked about videos of the last decade, in fact, they don't consider their music video a video at all.

"Music videos used to be commercials for rock bands and labels who were trying to sell stuff," says Kulash. "Now that MTV is largely not playing videos, there's



OK GO's latest is a combination of soul, R&B, rock and pop.

no reason to think of the music video as we used to."

For OK GO, making videos is "an opportunity to create the craziest ideas" says

Kulash, something they can't do in a more ridged recording environment. It also gives them the chance to play with the tunes. Unlike most videos, the band doesn't necessarily perform to its original track. In the YouTube clip for *This Too Shall Pass*, a tune off the group's new album *Of the Blue Colour of the Sky*, the band incorporates an entire marching band and singing children — that's not on the CD version of the song.

"Why does a music video have to look like a car commercial," asks Kulash. "Why should it even be the

same length as the song?"

Kulash says making his videos — most of which are even more creative and entertaining than *Here It Goes Again* — is when he can be at his most creatively ambitious. And while they do have to get financing for some of the videos ("not all can be for \$5," he says) for the most part the band is able to do what they want.

But, judging from the recent disc, there aren't many restrictions on what they can record either. The group's third record is an ambitious combination of soul, R&B, rock and pop — on opener *WTF* Kulash does a pretty good Prince impression. It's a departure for the usually rock heavy group, but after years of touring with their amps turned up, it's hard to blame them for wanting a change.

"Whatever engines we had in that direction burned out a bit," Kulash explains. "I tried going into the garage and turning up my amps and impressing myself with a catharsis of volume, but it just wasn't there."

Kulash grew up listening to a lot of R&B and Prince, so when the rock 'n' roll dried up, he turned to his other favourite genres for inspiration. "I got back to my influences that were older and deeper," he says.

And that's reinvigorated the band, says the singer. "It's more alive for us because it doesn't feel like we're beating out songs again."

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DVD picks

Michael Jackson's This Is It

Director: Kenny Ortega
Michael Jackson

DOES THE UNUSUAL docu-concert movie *This Is It* have anything to offer folks who aren't confirmed fans of Wacko Jacko? Can anything of real value be expected from the filmed record of rehearsals for Michael Jackson's concert series that had been scheduled to begin last July at London's O2 Arena?

Yes and yes.

MJ fans will love the swirling, fast-cut images of Jackson performing his greatest hits in energetic — even athletic — style. *Beat It*, *Billie Jean* and *Thriller* are given the full production treatment. There is also plenty of time devoted to *Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'* and *Smooth Criminal*.

But anyone curious about the man himself — and who isn't? — and the state of his mind and body before his untimely death

from heart failure at age 50, will find lots of interest in *This Is It*.

Kenny Ortega, Jackson's longtime collaborator and creative director, shows us an MJ we haven't seen before. It's Michael Jackson unvarnished, the wizard behind the curtain and the man-child in the mirror, and it's fascinating to behold. He's as tough as Frank Sinatra with his perfectionistic demands, brooking no dissent as he puts dancers and musicians half his age through their gruelling

paces. But he's also as fragile as Judy Garland, as is evident on the moving ballad *Human Nature*.

The film was culled from more than 100 hours of high-definition rehearsal footage, shot from March 2009 up to the hours before Jackson died on June 25, and lensed mainly at the The Forum and Staples Center in Los Angeles, where Jackson had been putting in full days of work for weeks.

This Is It delivers an emotional wallop; there's

an undeniable sadness seeing it and knowing it's the show he never gave and never will.

Extras include expanded *Thriller* and *Smooth Criminal* rehearsals and several making-of and Jackson remembrance featurettes.

Peter Howell/for Metro Canada

On the web

Also on DVD:

- Read Metro's review of *Surrogates* at metronews.ca/movies



Drop Dead Diva
Jane defends Deb's mother in a divorce, while Grayson represents her father. Kim represents a dog owner who sues a pet cloning company, claiming the clone is not the same dog as his first pup, a Westminster champion. Sharon Lawrence, Mark Moses and Diedrich Bader guest star in the new episode "The Chinese Wall." 11 PM on SHOW

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Talk about a sweet 16

For his 16th birthday, Diddy gave his son Justin Dior Combs a brand-new silver Maybach (price tag: \$360,000 US). The teen received the wheels on Saturday night, people.com reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Celebrity Buzz

Split rumours persist

JUST GET IT OVER WITH ALREADY Though their reps continue to deny the story, details continue to emerge on the alleged separation of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

"It's no secret they have been in a pretty loveless relationship for about a year," a source tells the Sun. "They barely spend time together, and when they do it is very fraught. They

want different things from life."

The source claims that it was Pitt's brother Doug who con-

vinced him to pull the plug on the relationship after a particularly chilly holiday season. This past weekend, Pitt was in Los Angeles helping George Clooney with his Haiti telethon, while Jolie stayed in New York for a photo shoot. On Sunday, the News of the World newspaper claimed Brad, 46, and 34-year-old Angelina had visited divorce lawyers to help them separate and planned to split up in the near future.

The legal document they allegedly signed will see their \$330 million US fortune halved in two.

METRO WORLD NEWS



All guys are dogs: Mel

MEN ARE FROM MARS. WOMAN ARE FROM VENUS. GIBSON IS FROM ... Mel Gibson thinks "all guys are dogs," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 54-year-old actor is very protective of his daughters — married Hannah, 29, and baby Lucia with his girlfriend Ok-sana Grigorieva — because he knows what men are like and what they are interested in.

He told People

magazine: "Oh, you get scared. We all know what dogs all guys are because we are guys."

Although Gibson is distrustful of any man's intentions for his girls, the actor acknowledges

that women are far smarter than guys give them credit for.

"We shouldn't despair, the truth is all women are smarter than men."

The Hollywood star is a very protective father and partner and last week revealed he keeps a gun "stowed away" in his house to protect against intruders. "I did have bodyguards for a little while but it's a drag."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Woods' wife allegedly visits him at sex clinic

ONE WOULD THINK KEEPING A SUPERMODEL AWAY WOULD BE A BETTER FIT FOR A SEX

ADDICT Tiger Woods had a special visitor recently at the Mississippi retreat where he is reportedly receiving treatment for sex addiction.

According to Radar Online, Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, spent several days at the facility participating in

his treatment before returning home to Florida. "The marriage is not over. They both want to save it," a source tells the website.

Mel Gibson came to the golfer's defense while chatting with Good Morning America, saying that "sometimes the most difficult part is being able to forgive yourself," which can be difficult when "everyone else is beating on you."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Carey picky with her food

SHE'S ALSO PICKY WITH HER MEN AND HER SERVANTS AND HER CLOTHES Mariah Carey refuses to mix her proteins and carbohydrates, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer admits she has to watch her diet and is careful to balance

out her food groups, as well as undertaking regular exercise.

She said: "If I have rice, I can't have meat at the same time. I also do water aerobics, swimming and Pilates."

Carey also says she has accepted her curvy body as she will never be a size zero.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Pair keep low profile at Sundance festival

WHEN WERE THEY HIGH PROFILE THOUGH? Bradley Cooper and Renée Zellweger — along with Cooper's actor pal Danny McBride — made a surprise appearance in the snow at the Sundance Film Festival this weekend to support Cooper's pals Jonah Hill and his Hangover costar Justin Bartha, who both have movies showing at the fest.

Cooper, 35, and Zellweger, 40, arrived separately, and the couple has kept a relatively low profile since getting into town. Cooper flew solo

Sunday and started off his morning with a quick trip to the USANA/Kari Feinstein Style Lounge. Saturday night also saw Cooper by himself hitting pal Hill's Cyrus premiere at the Eccles Theatre. The casual twosome laughed throughout the night, and Hill, 26, thanked Cooper for coming.

Bartha's movie at Sundance is Holy Rollers.

METRO WORLD NEWS



They're on again... again

VEGAS ODDS HAVE THEM 2-1 TO BE OFF AGAIN WITHIN A WEEK The rekindled relationship between Jude Law and Sienna Miller seems to be working, as the pair is reportedly planning to live together.

"Sienna has instructed estate agents Foxtons to put her London

house on the market and has decided to move in with Jude," a source tells the Daily Mail.

"They are back on track, and living together is the next step. They had an amazing holiday at Christmas and made a decision to commit to one another."

The couple, who called off their engagement

ment in 2006 after Law cheated with his children's nanny, reunited last month while working on Broadway.

Though neither have confirmed a reconciliation, Miller admitted recently that she's been thinking a lot about starting a family with someone.

They pair spent Christmas 2009 in Barbados, along with three of Jude's children from his first marriage.

Law was married to actress Sadie Frost.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

Taylor Swift can only exercise under certain conditions, **Jonathan Ross** isn't worried about what you think of him, **Tila Tequila** finally gets the recognition she deserves, and **Nick Cannon** compares himself to NBA stars.

@wossy Just went for a lovely swim, listening to soundtrack from #GLEE. If that makes me seem less robustly masculine then that is your problem.

@officialTila When I'm SO excited! They are naming a Milkshake after me at "Millions of Milkshakes" this thursday in Hollywood! Everyone come! What an honor!

@NickCannon The results are in. Whose Rap Career was worse, Mine or Kobe Bryant's? And it goes to... SHAQ!!!!

@taylorswift13 The hardest part about motivating myself to run is finding matching socks.



Leo and Refaelli trying once more

TRY, TRY AGAIN Leonardo DiCaprio and Bar Refaelli are always breaking up and getting back together — so what's different about this round of dating?

One source reveals to hollywoodlife.com that, Refaelli agreed to get back with him before the holidays but wouldn't be his arm candy. **METRO NEWS SERVICE**

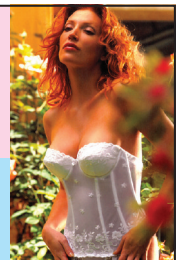


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Partly Cloudy
-8°C / -17°C

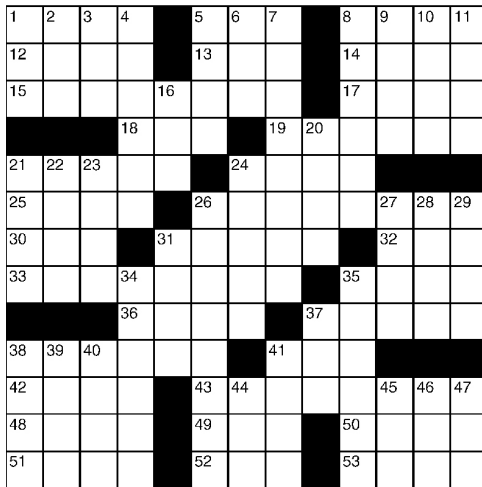


Wednesday
Cloudy
-5°C / -17°C



Thursday
Sunny
-4°C / -13°C

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Snowbank creator
5 Blond shade
8 Recedes
12 Helper
13 Extinct bird
14 — contendere
15 Cleared out, as by hoeing
17 Let fall
18 Pester for payment
19 Turn white
21 Let off the hook?
24 Authentic
25 — "Wind in the Willows" character
26 Like some grapes
30 Pismire
31 Dazzles
32 Luau offering
33 Unthink-ing
35 Sturdy fabric
36 Mature
37 Retains
38 Shoddily made
41 Torched
42 Bread unit

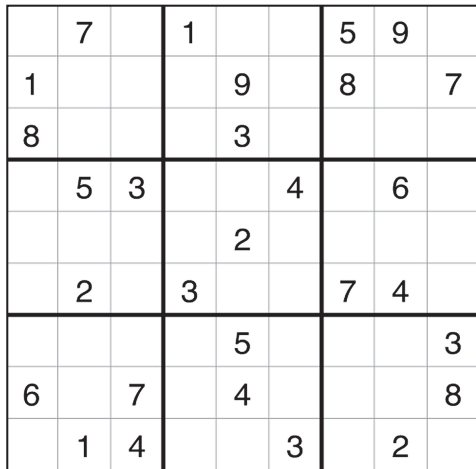
43 Unnecessary
48 Vote off the island
49 — Jima
50 Vicinity
51 Quarry
52 Coffee break hour
53 Black plus white
DOWN
1 Dog's foot
2 Recline
3 Praise in verse
4 Joined as one
5 "So be it"
6 "Mayday!"
7 They're washed-up
8 Ultimate goal
9 — Free
10 United nations
11 Frosh who graduated
16 Drag along
20 Young fellows
21 Hexagonal state
22 Zilch
23 — de foie gras
24 Don't just toss

26 "Hurry!"
27 Duel tool
28 Daytime TV entry
29 Sermonizers' subjects
31 Misstep
34 In need of caulking, maybe
35 Flier's awkward feeling
37 Tease
38 Hoofbeat
39 Session with a shrink
40 Facility
41 Ponce de —
44 Ram's mate
45 Blunder
46 Vast expanse
47 Put into words

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

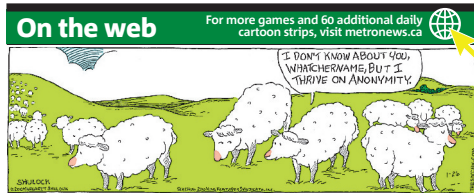
HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

FI B S O L A R J U S
R N A C R E T E U T E
A S H T A B U L A S A X
A L I A P A T H Y
M O P P E T S E R A
O H O D A M D E B T S
S I R S L A B S O A K
T O T E M G E L U P I
A V E S R E S T E D
U N B E N T A G O
S I L S A N T A B A B Y
E N E C R U E T T E E
R E S H E S S E M E W

3	9	1	8	6	4	5	2	7
4	7	6	9	5	2	3	1	8
5	8	2	7	3	1	4	6	9
8	6	4	3	7	9	2	5	1
1	3	5	6	2	8	7	9	4
7	2	9	4	1	5	8	3	6
6	4	3	2	9	7	1	8	5
2	1	7	5	8	6	9	4	3
9	5	8	1	4	3	6	7	2



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will have to hold a friend's hand and walk them through a situation they do not feel comfortable with.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21
Keep your thoughts to yourself today, especially if you have to deal with people whose friendship you are not entirely sure of.



LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23
Try not to get annoyed with people whose assistance you may need in the very near future. You need allies, not enemies.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22
With Mars, planet of aggression, moving through the career area of your chart at the moment you will find it easy to defend your interests.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21
Others will heap all sorts of extra duties and responsibilities on your shoulders if you let them. So don't let them.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21
Some people will go out of their way to gain an advantage at your expense today, but only if they think you have let down your guard.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may not know why you have reached a certain conclusion but if your inner voice tells you it is right you must not ignore it.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone is angry with you today, and you honestly don't have the faintest idea why. Don't make matters worse by getting angry too.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23
If someone lets you down over the next 24 hours your best course of action by far is to forgive them. This is no time to hold grudges.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone is counting on you to ride to their rescue and, of course, you will do what you can to help them. But who will rescue you?



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may have a dozen or more things on the go right now but you thrive when the pressure is on. Know when, and how, to say No.

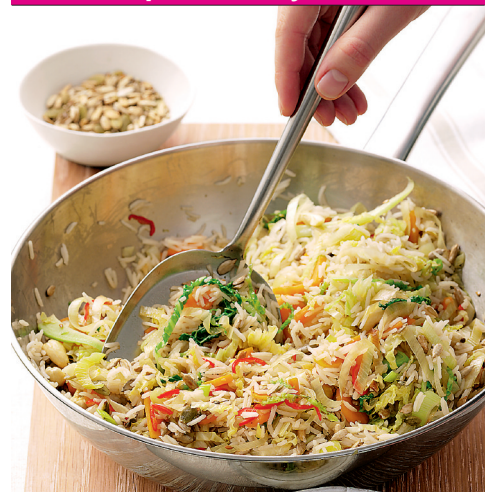


PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20
Don't waste a lot of time and energy today trying to explain to people why you are taking a certain course of action — just get on with it.



Metro Recipe of the Day



Glorious Vegetable and Cashew Stir Fry

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/3 cups (325 mL) basmati rice, rinsed
2 tbsp (25 mL) soy sauce
1 tbsp (15 mL) dry sherry
2 tsp (10 mL) toasted sesame oil
2 tbsp (25 mL) canola oil
7 1/2 oz (220 g) carrots, peeled, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced
2/3 lb (300 g) leeks, thinly sliced
5 oz (150 g) Savoy cabbage, thinly sliced
1 large garlic clove, crushed
1 large fresh red chili pepper, seeded and sliced
4 tbsp (60 mL) cashews
4 tbsp (60 mL) mixed toast seeds

METHOD:

1. Add rice to pot of

boiling water and boil 10 minutes or until grains are tender. Drain. Meanwhile, mix soy sauce, sherry and sesame oil in small bowl and set aside.
2. While rice is cooking, heat wok with canola oil and stir-fry carrots and leeks 2-3 minutes or until softened. Add cabbage, garlic and chili pepper, and stir-fry 2-3 minutes. Stir in soy sauce mixture and cashews. Season to taste.
3. Mix hot rice into wok or pan. Sprinkle with seeds and fork through.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



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This day in history

1808 — Rum Rebellion, the only successful (albeit short-lived) armed takeover of the government in Australia.
1861 — American Civil War: The state of Louisiana secedes from the Union.
1924 — St. Petersburg is renamed Leningrad
1942 — World War Two: The first United States forces arrive in Europe landing in Northern Ireland.
1992 — Boris Yeltsin announces that Russia will stop targeting United States cities with nuclear weapons.
2001 — An earthquake hits Gujarat, India, causing more than 20,000 deaths.

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Beach Resort • 4 ★
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Junior suite
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(including service charges): \$280

Puerto Vallarta / Riviera Nayarit

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*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$301

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Carnival Victory
Southern Caribbean Cruise
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Celebrity Cruises²
Celebrity SummitSM
Southern Caribbean Cruise
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Balcony, cat. 2A
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